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Musical Christmas Gifts

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WEBER IVERS & POND ESTEY
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Prices new pianos, \$250.00 up.

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Steinway, Weber,
Steck, Wheelock,
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You can only find a full line of these Pianos here.

Technola Player-Pianos
\$450.00 and \$525.00.

There is absolutely nothing like it for the money.

Fifty Good Second-hand Upright Pianos, including
Weber, Steinway, Chickering, Knabe, Sohmer, Chase, Estey,
Fischer, Hardman, and many others, from \$75.00 up. Prices
to suit the amount you want to spend.

Open Evenings Until Christmas.
TERMS TO SUIT ALL.

SANDERS & STAYMAN CO.,
1327 F Street.

Branch, 612 King Street, Alexandria, Va.

PROTESTS AGAINST COMMERCE COURT

L. C. C. Report Transmitted
to Congress.

EFFECTIVENESS IS LESSENED

Report Cites Numerous Instances
Where Appeal to and Review by
Commerce Court Has Resulted in
Discussions Adverse to Shippers.
Long and Short Haul Case Cited.

The twenty-fifth annual report of the Interstate Commerce Commission, made public yesterday, devotes considerable space to the Commerce Court, recently created by Congress. It is evident the commission believes its effectiveness will be materially lessened if the Supreme Court sustains the Commerce Court in several decisions which have been made by the latter. The commission is particularly aroused over the position assumed by the court in reference to facts in proceedings brought before the commission. The report states that "if the Commerce Court is sustained in its decision, the facts are admitted it is for that court to determine whether the rate is unreasonable or the discrimination undue, then ninety-nine out of a hundred of the orders of this commission can be reviewed upon the question of facts by the courts."

The commission says that out of twenty-seven cases passed on by the Commerce Court, preliminary restraining orders or final decrees have been issued in favor of the railroad in all but seven cases, and of these only three of any magnitude. The report then continues:

Adverse to Shippers.

"In saying that the court has ruled in favor of the railroad, we do not mean that the ruling has always been adverse to the commission, but it has been adverse to the shippers' contention. For instance, the court decided in favor of the commission in the two Cincinnati rate cases. These were proceedings in which the shippers of Cincinnati sought to have the commission ordered to reopen the case and fix a lower scale of rates to Chattanooga than had been ordered, on the ground that the rates fixed by the commission were unreasonable. The court had been based upon considerations which the commission should not have regarded, namely, competition from the East and West. In these cases the court held that it had no right to review the findings of the commission."

"Concerning the commission's decision in connection with the long and short haul section of the report, the court prescribed in the intermediate cases, the commission again calls attention to the difference of opinion between it and the court, as follows:

Short Haul Comment.

"Now who is to say whether the rate made to San Francisco is or is not properly induced by water competition at that point? Who shall determine whether the transcontinental rail line is, upon the pretext of water competition, giving to the terminal point a rate below what its natural position would entitle it to, and thereby discriminating against the intermediate cities of Reno? The Commerce Court is of the opinion that no restraint can be put upon the limit to which this discrimination can go; the commission is of the opinion that it is gross and endeavoring to invest this body with authority to inquire whether the action of the railway in meeting this water competition is justifiable."

"The report states that upon a railroad of books originating at Chicago, the Northern Pacific Railroad received for its haul from St. Paul to Spokane, a distance of 1,500 miles, \$25, but had the same car gone to Seattle, involving an additional haul of one-quarter in distance over the most expensive part of the route, the receipts of the Northern Pacific would have been \$300."

The report says that one of the most important additions to the authority of the Mann-Elkins act of 1906 is that conferred to suspend the operation of proposed changes in rate schedules until the propriety and reasonableness thereof may be investigated.

Would Retard Scope of Law.

In accordance with legal requirements, the report contains recommendations as to additional legislation which the commission deems necessary to the regulation of commerce. These recommendations, seven in number, are as follows:

1. That section 6 of the act be amended to require the filing of a copy of the commission's decision with the courts.
2. That the commission be authorized to require the filing of a copy of the commission's decision with the courts.
3. That the commission be authorized to require the filing of a copy of the commission's decision with the courts.
4. That the commission be authorized to require the filing of a copy of the commission's decision with the courts.
5. That the commission be authorized to require the filing of a copy of the commission's decision with the courts.
6. That the commission be authorized to require the filing of a copy of the commission's decision with the courts.
7. That the commission be authorized to require the filing of a copy of the commission's decision with the courts.

District Railway Regulation.

In renewing the recommendation that it be retained from regulation of the street railway traffic in this District the commission says:

"The commission still is of the opinion that for effective and adequate regulation of street railways in the District of Columbia, and their services performed wholly within the District, the law should be amended in such manner as to more definitely specify the requirements upon the carriers and the authority of the agency of the government as shall be charged with its enforcement, and that this agency should be some tribunal other than the Interstate Commerce Commission."

HENEY SUES CROCKER.

New York, Dec. 20.—Francis J. Heney, the San Francisco lawyer, who successfully exposed the "graft ring" in his home city and prosecuted the grafters until he was shot by a political enemy, has filed an action in the Supreme Court here to recover \$250,000 damages from William H. Crocker, the San Francisco millionaire. The case came before Justice Burr today on a motion of Crocker attorneys, Grand and Smyth, to take the testimony of about sixty witnesses in San Francisco by deposition. Heney charged Crocker with having written a public article on December 2, 1908, in which Heney is accused of persecuting the San Francisco grafters. The defendant's answer pleads a general denial of malice in the written article and also justification for the statements therein contained.

TAFT TO OPPOSE NATIONAL ROADS

Continued from Page One.

when the issues are presented to the people next November they can decide what party it is whose principles they want to support. We want no dodged issues, but must abide by the judgment of the people, whatever that may be. What we desire is clearness of atmosphere—no misrepresentation, no cloudiness, no demagoguery.

Immediately after speaking the President hurried to the Pennsylvania station in West Thirty-third street, and accompanied by his secretary, Mr. Clegg, and military aid, took a train back to Washington, remarking as he stepped aboard the train, that he was very well pleased with the reception he had received here and would be back on Tuesday evening. He said he would be back in the city on December 30, to attend the peace dinner.

TAFT LAYS CORNER STONE OF HOME FOR THE BLIND

New York, Dec. 20.—President Taft began his second day in New York with the laying of the corner stone of the first settlement house for the blind—the new light-house—in East Fifty-ninth street, near Lexington avenue, this afternoon, using a silver trowel presented to him by the blind women of the city. The President was accompanied by a guard of Secret Service men. An immense throng gathered in the vacant lot where the six-story edifice is to go up raised a cheer as the President stepped from his automobile.

The President listened to a speech by Joseph H. Choate, who presided at the ceremony as a member of the New York Association for the Blind. Gov. Dix and President John H. Finley, of the college of the city of New York, who extolled the work done by the New York association for the blind, which has been in existence since 1838, were present. The President was that of W. I. Scandlin, blind president of the Blind Men's Self-Improvement Club. The President personally applied the trowel to the corner stone of the blind people, although shut out of light, are showing that they may be self-reliant.

Miss Winifred Holt, secretary of the Association for the Blind, in presenting the President with the trowel with which he was to lay the corner stone, expressed the belief that the structure whose foundation was started by the President would rise up a hope and a desire for independence in the hearts of hundreds and thus enable them to find the blessing of light through work.

Miss Grace Keator, blind president of the Blind Women's Club, aided the President in laying the corner stone, the great throng applauding when the work was done.

"It has been a great privilege to me to be able to come here and help establish the settlement for the blind," said the President. "I hope it will prove to be an impulse to those who are deprived of sight, and I know it will, because they have shown in the past that they are quick to help themselves if the opportunity is given them. Our sympathy is theirs, and our most sincere wishes go to them in this undertaking."

After the corner stone laying, President Taft was taken on a motor car to the Fifth avenue, to do some Christmas shopping in Tiffany's. The Secret Service men and others were asked to remain outside the establishment while he went inside.

"The President wants secrecy in his shopping," remarked Maj. Archibald Butt.

A President was escorted to a private room in the shop, and there picked out the gifts he will bestow upon his family on Christmas morning at the White House. Mr. Taft rested at home with his brother, Henry W. Taft, before going out upon the evening's dinner engagements.

TRIPOLI 'DIGGINGS' TOLD BY AN EXPERT

Prof. Hoppin Lectures on
Cyrene Expedition.

The Washington Society of the Archaeological Institute held its forty-seventh regular meeting at 4 o'clock at the residence of Mrs. Somers, 190 M Street, last night.

The lecturer was Prof. Joseph Clark Hoppin, a member of the American expedition to Cyrene, Tripoli, who had a prominent part in the excavation work that was stopped because of the war between Italy and Turkey. Dr. Hoppin's lecture was illustrated with stereopticon slides, and gave an account of the results of the work of Richard Norton and others of the conditions of life in Tripoli.

A large number of rock tombs in the northern metropolis of the city were cleaned and explored, and through long since robbed of objects of any intrinsic value, yielded good results in the way of vases, terra-cotta, figurines, and smaller objects. Further a garden on the west slope of the Acropolis proved to contain an enormous mass of terra-cotta figurines, a very superficial digging on this site resulted in the discovery of more than 3,000 of them."

The following new members were enrolled: Annual members, Mrs. D. Griffith Ambler, Louis W. Austin, Eugene A. Byrnes, Admiral Willard H. Brownson, Thomas M. Chastard, Miss Florence Clarke, Edward W. Dorn, Jr., Mrs. Margaretta Spaulding, Mrs. William H. Goddard, Frank J. Goodnow, Alastair P. Gordon-Cumming, Dean Charles Noble Gregory, Miss Catharine A. McAvoy, Miss A. S. Bailey, Mrs. E. B. Ross, Mrs. Henry A. Seymour, Charles A. Spaulding, Justice J. A. Van Orsdel, Mrs. E. H. Waller, Mrs. Josephine M. Wove, Henry E. F. Wove, Prof. George M. Bolding, life member, Robert M. Thompson.

The next regular meeting of the society will be held at the residence of Edson Bailey, January 25, when Prof. George H. Chase, of Harvard University, will give an illustrated lecture on "Tanaqra Figurines," with special reference to the Elton Bradley collection.

WOULD PROHIBIT CUPS.

Health Officer Woodward Opps Bill to the Commissioners.

Dr. William C. Woodward, District health officer, has submitted to the Commissioners for their approval and submission to Congress a bill to prohibit the use of the common drinking cup, and thus prevent the communication of infectious diseases in the District.

A number of bills with this end in view have already been framed. At the last session of Congress, Representative John H. Smith, of North Carolina, introduced a bill of this kind in the House. The bill was submitted to the Commissioners for a report. Dr. Woodward believes the measure is defective in many respects, and consequently has framed a substitute measure.

The bill makes it a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of not more than \$5, for the manager of any store, theater, or other place of business which is frequented by the public, to expose for use as a drinking cup a receptacle which is not cleaned each time after being used.



THE GREATER PALAIS ROYAL

A. LISNER WASHINGTON, D. C. G STREET

SAVE THEM

Give "him" or "her" Automatic Eyeglass Holders, \$1 to \$2. In Dr. Samuel's office, mezzanine balcony, stairway, near elevator.

Real Gold, Real Jewels, & Sterling Silver

The Parisian imitations here are too good—they are lessening the sales of the real. For this morning greatly reduced prices for the real. No time to change the price marked on each piece—hence the discounts.



10% Discount

One-tenth Off Marked Prices

Choice of the real Garnet Lavallieres and Brooches—here at various prices from \$1.25 to \$25.00—and the Pearl Opera Glasses at \$6.98 to \$18.75. In "Tiffany Room," northeast corner of first floor.



15% Discount

Choice of Sterling Silver Lavallieres here at various prices, from \$1.50 to \$10.00. Also choice of the real Gun-Metal Chains, marked at various prices from \$3.00 to \$25.00. 15 per cent discount.

20% Discount

Any of the Gold Mesh Bags here at \$7.50 to \$18.00, and any of the Solid Gold Lavallieres at \$5 to \$25.00. Deduct one-fifth from the price marked on the one you select.

30% Discount

Choice of the Sterling Silver Mesh Bags—"her" greatest ambition is to possess one. Here at prices gradually rising from \$18.98 to \$45.00. Such bags cost from \$20.00 to \$50.00 at the jewellers.

BARNES AND TAFT HOLD CONFERENCE

President and "Boss" Agree
to Respect Spheres.

New York, Dec. 20.—William Barnes, Jr., chairman of the New York State Republican committee, who a few days ago shook the State to its political shoes by assailing President Taft and Col. Roosevelt, met and made his peace with Mr. Taft today.

Mr. Barnes, with Samuel S. Koenig, chairman of the New York Republican County committee, and Otto Barnard, called on President Taft at the home of his brother, Henry W. Taft, and at the close of the conference issued the following statement:

"I suppose that it is pretty well understood by this time that my sole reason for activity within the Republican party now is toward a declaration of principle by the New York convention, which will be a clear and decisive expression of Republican doctrine, which, to my mind, implies resistance to half-thought ideas and ill-considered and dangerous public demands. I referred to the President my belief in the obligation now resting upon the Republican party. I assume that whoever is nominated will adhere to the principles that will be adopted."

When supplemented by other reports of the conference, this means that Mr. Barnes told Mr. Taft that he would support the man who represents conservative Republicanism and would most likely win. In return Mr. Barnes was assured that there would be no interference in New York State politics.

The State's chairman was also shown that of the State's delegation of ninety. Mr. Taft controls fifty-four. Mr. Barnes was told that Presidential interference in gubernatorial affairs had been intended in the past, and Mr. Taft is said to have given assurance that he had no intention of interfering in State matters.

On leaving the Taft house, Barnes made it clear to the reporters that he had been invited by the President to call and said: "We had a very pleasant chat."

This was before he had given out the official statement indicating that Taft had agreed to be "conservative" in return for a promise of Barnes' support.

Col. Roosevelt did not communicate with the President during the day. Regarding the activities of the colonel, State Chairman Koenig said today: "I am still taking Roosevelt at his word, and I know he is not a candidate, at least for 1912. Whether he will be in 1916—well, that is five years away."

If there is one man who cannot be convinced that Taft is not to have the entire New York delegation behind him at Chicago, it is the President's secretary, Charles D. Hillis. Since his arrival in New York, he has made it his business to see every Republican leader who could control a vote at Chicago. On returning to Washington to-night he expressed himself confident that New York will be for his chief in the national convention.

Anatomical books were written in 420 B. C. by King Aethion, who was a physician.

MME. LANGEVIN IS GIVEN SEPARATION

Name of Mme. Curie Is Not
Brought Into the Case.

Paris, Dec. 20.—Mme. Langevin was today granted a separation from her husband, M. Paul Langevin, whose name was associated with that of Mme. Curie in a series of recently published love letters. The text of the judge's decision does not mention the name of Mme. Curie, but states that the petition of Mme. Langevin for a separation is granted, because Prof. Langevin had abandoned the conjugal domicile "under conditions injurious to his wife," and also because it appeared from the documents submitted to the court that Prof. Langevin had been guilty of "grave injuries" toward his wife.

The documents referred to by the court are the letters, which are alleged to have passed between Mme. Curie and Prof. Langevin. The criminal complaint recently preferred against Prof. Langevin by his wife was withdrawn.

The court decided that the interest of the four children, dependent on the mother, should be given into the custody of the mother. The father, however, is granted the right to direct the education of the children. He is also given permission to see them at stated intervals.

TALK ON AMMONIA AND HIGH EXPLOSIVE

Chemical Engineers' Meeting
Marked by Optimism.

Addresses by the retiring president, F. W. Fremont, and John G. Munro, Jr., featured the opening meeting of the Institute of Chemical Engineers at the Willard last night. Mr. Fremont spoke of the future of the association in glowing terms, and commented on the general advancement noted during the last year.

In his address on problems of chemical engineering, Mr. Munro discussed the possibility of transferring alcohol into chloroform, and the recent tests of cylinders which can be used to ship liquid ammonia gas.

During the afternoon the delegates visited the Bureau of Standards of the Department of Commerce and Labor, and made an inspection of the various devices of technical interest. In the forenoon Charles H. Burr, Jr., of the Bureau of Mines, declared that out of half a million pounds of explosives made during the last year, more than 10 per cent had failed to do what was expected.

Five other papers of a technical nature were presented.

Officers for the coming year were elected, as follows: Leo H. Backlund, New York, president; M. C. White, Columbia University, vice president; John C. Olsen, New York, secretary; H. S. Renaud, New York, treasurer; G. W. Thompson, New York, auditor, and A. C. Sanghvi, New York, H. S. Miner, Philadelphia; A. Reprint, Chicago, and T. H. Wagner, New York, directors.

The annual dinner will be held in the New Willard to-night. Saturday afternoon the delegates will go to Baltimore, where they will be shown the plant of the Maryland Steel company, at Sparrows point. To-morrow's session will be given up to an educational discussion of the Patent Office. Commissioner of Patents E. B. Moore will be one of the speakers.

To-morrow afternoon at 2 o'clock the President will receive the members of the Institute in the east room of the White House.

Stoan Fur Sale Booms.

The change for colder weather yesterday brought an appreciable increase in the crowds of buyers attending the auction sale of rich furs at the rooms of C. G. Stoan & Co., Inc., 1407 G Street Northwest, and a greater interest was manifested in the spirited bidding. A number of the most stylish ladies' fur coats, sets, scarfs, and muffs were disposed of at bargain prices. In fur-lined auto coats and heavy fur robes for autos and carriages, the selection is unusually attractive.

To-day's sale starts at 11 a. m., with afternoon session at 2 o'clock, and in addition to the fur line of the line of trousseau and English "sail-on" rain coats will be included. To-morrow is the last day of this remarkable sale, which C. G. Stoan & Co., Inc., auctioneers, is conducting for the Siberian Fur company, of New York.

RUSSELL'S ESTATE GIVEN.

London, Dec. 20.—The value of the estate left by W. Clark Russell, writer of the sea, is about \$77,000.

INDICTED PACKERS SEVERELY SCORED

Beef Trust Lawyers Taking
Many Exceptions.

Chicago, Dec. 20.—As a proper setting for the bill of exceptions filed by the packers today, in which it was set forth that no crime had been charged by the government, and that further proceedings in the trial was a gross waste of time, district Attorney Wilkerson exposed in detail today how the beef trust almost succeeded in secretly getting control of Schwarzenbach & Sulzberger, and did succeed in pocketing a big concern organized by 600 New York butchers.

Attorney Wilkerson, near the close of his opening statement, charged that under the cloak of the National Packing Company the packers' lawyers about the price at which cattle were purchased and meat was sold, and divided the business among them as in the days of the oil pool meetings. He met a probable plea of the packers by saying that it would not be necessary for the government to prove any single conversation at these Tuesday afternoon meetings, or to prove that a word was spoken—that the concerted action of each defendant after each of the meetings was proof sufficient of the charge of the existence of a combination.

When the district attorney had finished the second chapter of his arraignment of the packers' trust, attorneys for the packers presented a bill of exceptions, and promised to ask in a later bill that the case be taken from the jury on the ground that no crime had been charged in the indictment, or in the government's statement; that is, in view of the translation of the doctrine of reasonableness to be applied to the Standard Oil and tobacco cases.

The coteries of lawyers who invented the immunity bath and other legal fire escapes hope to tie the present trial in a knot by the exceptions taken to-day. It is to be remembered, however, that most of the points taken by the defense have already been the subject of rulings by Judge Carpenter, and he is not expected to reverse himself.

TWELVE VIOLENT DEATHS.

Record Shows in Weekly Report of
Health Office.

Last week was a record period for deaths in the District from violence, according to the weekly report of the health department, which was made public yesterday afternoon. Twelve such deaths were reported. During the preceding week there were only five, and during the corresponding week last year there were only seven.

Four of the deaths were suicides. One of the victims resorted to the carbolic acid method, one inhaled gas, and two relied on firearms. One death was reported as homicidal. The remaining seven deaths were the result of accidents. One resulted from burns, one from a fracture received in falling from a street car, one from exposure to night air, and three from inhaling gas.

During the week there were 121 deaths, an increase of eighteen over the number for the preceding week.



Gifts by Telephone From Now On

That you, Everywoman? Well, this is Claus. Bill Snow, Jack Frost and Jim Sleet have threatened disagreeable Christmas Shopping weather. Why not make up a list of things you want—better include the groceries—pull up a chair to your Bell Telephone and have the whole worrisome job over in a single morning? Try this to-day or to-morrow and spend the last week in care-free enjoyment of Yuletide spirit. You'll be surprised how well the stores can serve you in this, the comfort way.

If you haven't a Bell Telephone get Main 9000 from the nearest telephone and order one right now. They won't charge for the message.

"Main 9000"

